



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Bluffton Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charges

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of William Ira Benton (DOB: 1951) of Bluffton, South Carolina, on eleven (11) charges connected to sexual exploitation of minors. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, a member of the state's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, made the arrest.

Investigators state that Benton was involved in downloading child pornography via file sharing.

Benton was arrested on January 26, 2016. He is charged with ten (10) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, second degree (§16-15-405), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment for each count; and one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, third degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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